measurement, supply of commoditites of inferior quality to beneficiaries, lack of awareness of entitlement, non-lifting of commoditites by the upper segments of society, *etc.*

(c) and (d) The Public Distribution System is implemented under the joint responsibility of the Central and State Governments/UT Addministrations. The Central Government is responsible for procurement, storage and transportation of the PDS commoditites upto the Central godowns and making them available to the States. The responsibility for distribution to the consumers through the Fair Price Shops and administration of the PDS rests with the State Governments and UT Administrations. State Governments have been requested to closely monitor PDS at the FPS and other levels and to make arrangements for distribution of PDS commodities in a transparent and accountable manner by the involvement of Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) in the rural areas and local bodies in the urban areas.

In order to streamline the functioning of PDS and make it more accountable and effective, Government of India has issued the Public Distribution System (Control) Order, 2001 under section 3 of the Essential Commodities Act, 1955. The PDS (Control) Order, 2001 contain several provisions to empower State Government/UT Administrations to curb diversion to eliminate bogus ration cards and initiate legal action against erring FPS owners, *etc.* An offence committed in violation of the provisions of the Order invokes criminal liability under section 7 of Act.

Marketing yards and godowns for farmers in Rajasthan

1953. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether any proposals for setting up of marketing yards and Government godowns, for providing additional storage and marketing facilities to the farmers have been submitted by the Government of Rajasthan and other State Governments;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether proposals received from the State Governments during the last three years are still pending with the Central Government; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and by when approval is likely to be accorded, the amount of assistance proposed to be provided, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN): (a) to (d) Proposals for setting up of marketing yards only, have been received from the State Governments of Assam and Maharashtra. No proposal has been received from Rajasthan or any other State Government for setting up of marketing yards and rural godowns.

The State Government of assam has requested for financial assistance of Rs. 145.00 lakhs for development of 8 markets in the State under the Mini Mission III of the Technology Mission for Integrated Development of Horiticulture in the North Eastern States including Sikkim. The State Government has been requested to furnish additional information for release of funds.

The State Government of Maharashtra had requested for financial assistance for setting up of rural primary markets and secondary markets by reviving the Centrally Sponsored Scheme for development of Agricultural Produce Markets, which was transferred to the State/ UTs on 1-4-1992 as per the recommendation of National Development Council (NDC). the Government has approved two New Central Sector Schemes, namely, marketing Information Network and Capital Investment Subsidy schemes for construction of rural godowns. The Government has constituted an Inter-Ministerial Task Force to examine the recommendations and suggest measures for the implementation of the recommendations of the Expert Committee on Strengthening and Developing of Agricultural Marketing. In view of these new initiatives, the Government is not in a position to revive the erstwhile Centrally Sponsored Scheme for development of Agricultural Produce Markets.

Under the Mini Mission III of the Technology Mission on Cotton being implemented by the Ministry of textiles, targeted 51 market yards have been sanctioned with an estimated cost of Rs. 75.31 Crore, out of which Government of India's share is Rs. 38.68 Crore. State-wise details are given in the Statement.

Statement

State-wise progress of Technology Mission on cotton (Mini Mission-III)

Mini Mission-III

Upto January, 2002

(In Lakh Rupees)

S. No.	State	#No. of Market Yards Sanctioned	GOI Share	State Share	Total Cost (4)+(5)	Funds reimbursed	
1.	PUNJAB	0	0	0	0	0	Funds are
2.	HARYANA	5	385	360.84	745.84	201.21	reimbursed
3.	RAJASTHAN	7	560.81	498.79	1059.86	279.85	in a phased
4.	GUJARAT	15	1013.78	892.08	1905.86	383.34	manner on
5.	MADHYAPRADESH	6	535	579.02	1114.02	232.72	receipt of
6.	MAHARASHTRA	0	0	0	0	0	bills from
7.	ANDHRAPRADESH	8	580	704.27	1284.27	252.83	the APMC
8.	KARNATAKA	5	385	336.02	721.02	223.56	concerned.
9.	TAMILNADU	2	238.49	174.45	412.94	175.74	
10.	ORISSA	3	170.07	117.54	287.61	22.26	
	TOTAL:	51	3868.15	3663.01	7531.16	1771.51	

#HARYANA (05):- Improvement of existing yards-04, Activation of dormant market yards-01
RAJASTHAN (07):- Improvement of existing yards-06, Activation of dormant yards-01
GUJARAT (15):- Setting up of new yards-01; Improvement of existing yards-08; Activation of dormant market yards-06
M.P. (06):- Setting up of new yards-01; Improvement of existing yards-04; Activation of dormant market yards-01
A.P. (08):- Setting up of new yards-02; Improvement of existing yards-02; Activation of dormant market yards-04
KARNATAKA (05):- Improvement of existing yards-04; Activation of dormant market yards-01
TAMIL NADU (02):- Setting up of new yards-01; Improvement of existing yards-01
ORISSA (03):- Setting up of new yards-01; Improvement of existing yards-01; Activation of dormant market yards-01.